

Application/Control Number : 09/492,755  
Art Unit: 1722  
October 23, 2003  
Page 4

Remarks

Reconsideration of the application as hereby amended is respectfully requested.

It submitted that the new and amended claims, as hereby submitted, define a structure that is both new and non-obvious over the cited prior art.

Indeed, none of the cited prior documents discloses or suggests a fabric with woven structure that has minute gaps, with a plurality of elastomer relief regions on a first side formed by elastomer flown through by pressure and heat application from a second, opposite side and which alternate with a plurality of fabric surface regions that are completely free of elastomer.

It is noted that, in particular, both Widdemer and Matsumara et al teach a base layer with protrusions that is either impregnated or coated completely with elastomer.

Accordingly, it is believed that the claims hereby submitted are allowable.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

While it is believed that the amended claims properly and clearly define the present invention, applicant would be open to any suggestion or amendment the Examiner may have or propose concerning different claim phraseology which, in the Examiner's opinion, more accurately defines the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,



Guido MODIANO (Reg. No. 19,928)  
Agent for the Applicant

Date: October 23, 2003  
Address: Via Meravigli 16, 20123 MILAN-ITALY  
Telephone: (from USA) (011)(39)(02)8590-7777  
Telefax: (from USA)(011)(39)(02)863-860

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
OCT 23 2003

OFFICIAL